Developing Bio-Control Agents as Pesticides

†1033. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Agriculture Research Institutes are engaged in research for developing bio-control agents as pesticides; and

(b) if so, the progress made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Various agricultural research institutes of the ICAR are engaged in research on bio-agents for the control of pests.

(b) Specific bio-control agents *viz.* parasites, parasitoids, predators, insect pathogens, nematophagous fungi and bacteria and weed control agents have been identified for managing insect-pests, diseases, nematodes and weeds, and commensurate technologies have been developed.

MSP for Cotton

1034. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum support price of cotton fixed this year by Maharashtra Government and other State Governments;

(b) the Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission's recommendation in this regard, indicating the cost of production of cotton in different areas; and

(c) how far the farmer's interests have been safeguarded thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) does not come under the purview of the State Governments, including Maharashtra. Based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the Government of India has fixed the MSP for the basic varieties of cotton F-414/H-777/J-34 at Rs. 1725 and for H-4 at Rs. 1925 per quintal for 2003-04 season. The C2 cost of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

production (actual expenses paid in cash and kind, rent for leased-in land and imputed value of wages for family labour, rent for owned land and interest on fixed capital) in major cotton producing States during 2003-04 is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The MSP fixed covers cost of production and a reasonable margin over and above cost with a view to protecting the interests of farmers. In the case of States with high cost of production, MSP covers A2 + FL costs (actual expenses paid in cash and kind, rent for leased-in land and imputed value for wages of family labour) and a reasonable margin overA2 + FL costs. A2 + FL costs are also given in the Annexure. In order to avoid distress sale by farmers, the Government undertakes Price Support Operation of cotton through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), if prices of cotton fall below the MSP level.

Statement

Projected Cost of Production of Cotton in Major Cotton Producing States In 2003-04

(Rs./Quintal)

State	C2 Cost	A2+FL Cost
Andhra Pradesh	1822.99	1259.57
Gujarat	1625.58	1264.53
Haryana	1857.89	1278.04
Karnataka	2136.08	1633.44
Madhya Pradesh	2145.44	1436.12
Maharashtra	2169.61	1679.29
Punjab	2035.93	1501.86
Rajasthan	1574.97	1176.55
Tamil Nadu	2433.31	1700.35

NOTES: 1. C2 cost covers actual expenses paid in cash and kind, rent for leased-in land, and imputed value for wages of family labour, rent for owned land and interest on fixed capital.

2. A2+FL cost covers actual expenses paid in cash and kind, rent for leased-in land and imputed value of wages of family labour.